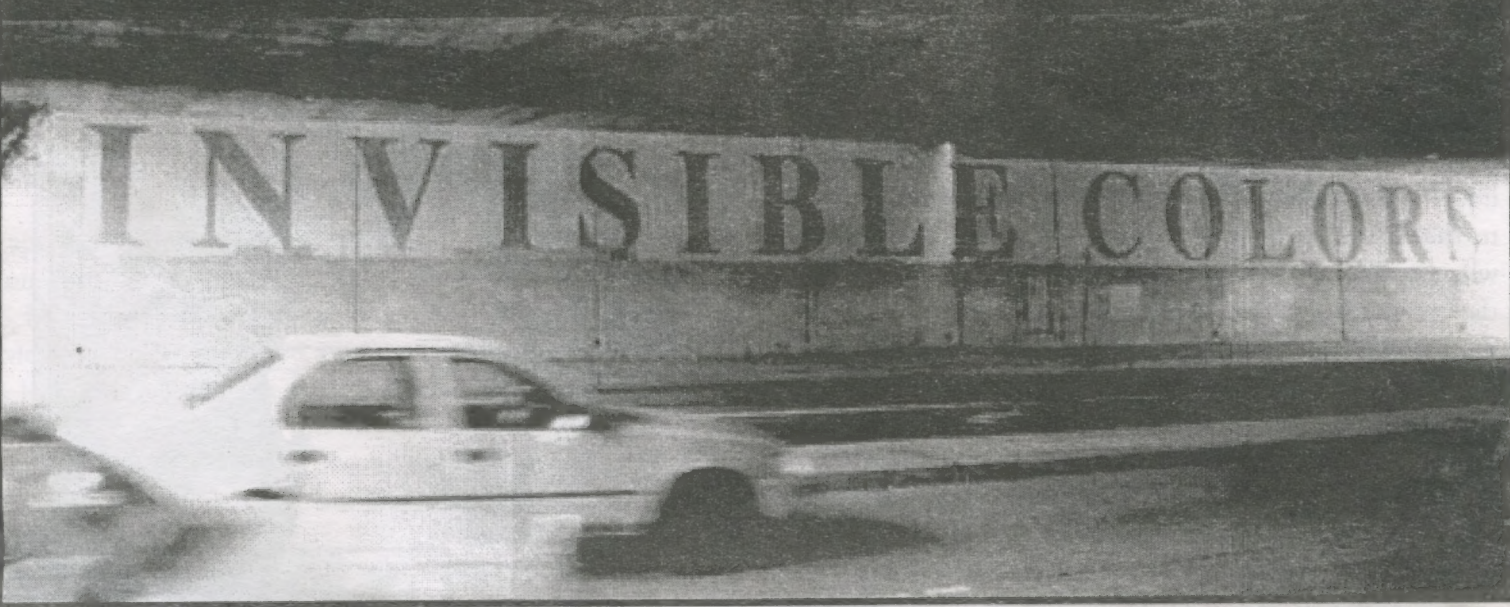


EASTWEST

EARLY JULY 2014

an anarchist newspaper

ALWAYS FREE



INVISIBLE COLORS

INVISIBLE COLORS-CONCRETE LINES

We can visualize it as one giant teardrop. It begins deep in the east, where the level plains open up to the dry inland valleys and the 580 and 880 freeways connect. Between these two concrete lines is a giant flat expanse, a grid of epic proportions, containing a history that is largely untold, marginalized, and relegated to the hollows of the collective memory. It is here, within this concrete teardrop, that we find all we need to know about what has happened to the world around us and where it will lead should we follow the proscribed lines and fail to see the colors bursting around us.

Before the lines were drawn and the concrete laid, we could once find babbling creeks filled with trout and roaming bears traversing through the grass. The indigenous Ohlone inhabited the marshlands during the fall and winter, living off the bounty of the great bay. In the spring and summer, they would trek up past the oak trees of the foothills and forage through the incessant greenery that grew at the bases of the mighty redwood trees that stood over the land since the beginning of time.

The trout that the Ohlone knew can still be seen today in Oakland, holding onto their ancient patterns and traveling up Sausal Creek from the saltwater of the bay. These beautiful Rainbow Trout have been able to make it to the other side of the 580 freeway despite all of the impediments

laid before them. If we are lucky, we might see these radiant and multicolored fish breeding within the damp woods of Dimond Canyon, and if we look closely enough, the concrete lines will crumble within our imaginations and the free earth that has always existed may once again spread before us in every direction.

The 580 freeway separates the flat-lands from the hills of Oakland. To the west of this freeway lives a mostly poor and working class population that has suffered under the dictatorship of capitalism for well over a century. Below the hills, between the 580 and 880 freeways, gang warfare and police terrorism have ravaged the psyches and lives of thousands of people. While the population above the flat-lands is mostly white and affluent, the population living within the giant concrete teardrop is mostly poor people of humble means. Unsurprisingly, most of these people below 580 are not white.

Where life was once free in the grassy fields and vast tidelands of Oakland, people are now turned against each other, taught to prey on the weak and trusting, and encouraged to become petty capitalists. The desire for money has fueled the drug wars, caused thousands of deaths, and left the majority of East Oakland impoverished. Meanwhile, above 580, people can live without seeing the despair caused by the same system that gives them their wealth, although some-

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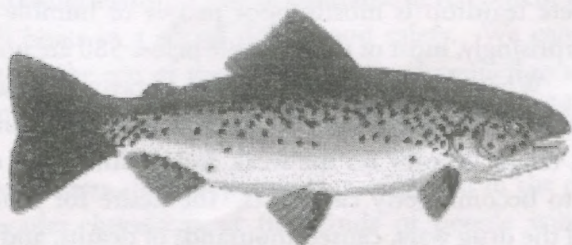
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times the predations of capital make their way up the hills.

While the predatory behavior encouraged by capitalism is something the editors of this newspaper want to discourage, crimes against the rich are only natural, given the stark inequalities playing out in the city of Oakland. The rich are better equipped to fend off robbers and use their large resources to purchase surveillance cameras, alarm systems, and private security patrols. Down the hill, people who want to protect their meager wealth string cheap barbed wire around their homes, cement shard of glass to their walls, and install prison like bars over their doors and windows. When the crime does make its way to the hills, it is quickly pushed back down to the flats, where opportunities are few and the options slim. This is the cycle of capitalist predation that will not end until we destroy capitalism. It is as simple as that.

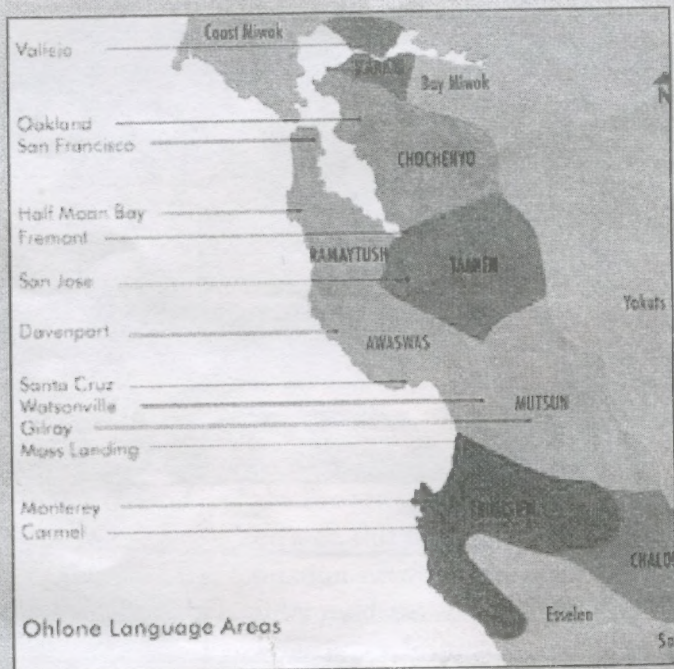
Like the trout, many people are trapped within the concrete lines traced out by the architects of this profit-driven world. But it is within all of our powers to break out of these lines, just as the trout have, century after century. While the walls may seem insurmountable, it is possible to fly over them, to deny the behaviors that capitalism encourages in us and begin to practice the old ways that have been forgotten. Predatory crime will be replaced with mutual aid, sharing, and community. Capitalists laws will be ignored, land will be returned to the commons, and the enforcers of capitalist order (the police) will be stripped of all their powers and left to face the consequences of their past actions.

On Park Boulevard, underneath the 580 freeway, is a simple mural that reads INVISIBLE COLORS. It is one of the moist poignant statements of the class divisions marked by the gray concrete of the six-lane freeway. Many who travel past this mural, leaving the hills and descending into the flat-lands, often fail to see any of these invisible colors dancing before them. But it is our hope that these pages can help you see what is really going in the places you inhabit and learn to notice the invisible colors dancing in the creeks, forests, streets, and memories of Oakland.



the rainbow trout

TEMESCAL, *noun*: a derivation of **temazcalli**, the Nahuatl (Aztec) word for sweat lodge. Name given to the area around upper Temescal Creek by Spanish colonizers in reference to the sweat lodges of the Huchiun band of the Ohlone, the original inhabitants.



The Huchiun village near contemporary Rockridge was destroyed by the colonizers and the headwaters of the creek were damned to create Lake Temescal, ending the migrations of coho salmon and all but destroying the presence of rainbow trout. The mouth of Temescal Creek can now be seen at the Bay Street Mall in Emeryville, surrounded by corporate stores and an AMC movie theater. The capitalists were cruel enough to name the main drag of the mall Ohlone Way.

Bay Street retail and entertainment complex

As a way of remembering the Ohlone Indians who once lived on the site, the new Bay Street retail and entertainment complex in Emeryville will include a public garden along Temescal Creek and a community room displaying replicas of artifacts found in an archaeological excavation.

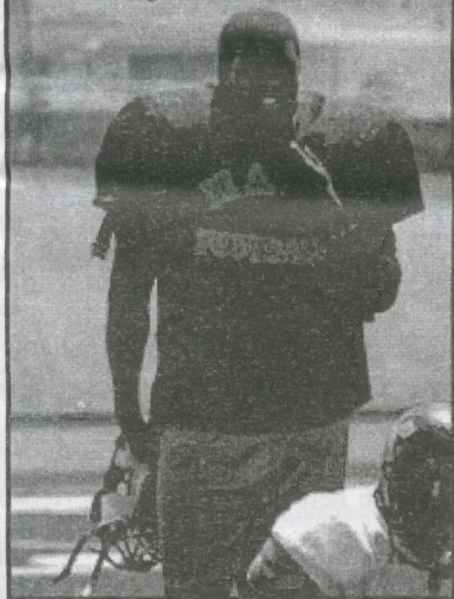


THE NORTH OAKLAND CRIME WAVE

In September of 2013, a group of commuters were waiting at the Rockridge BART station for their carpool rides to pick them up. Standing in a silent line, sipping their coffees and scrolling through their smart phones, the commuters were suddenly set upon by three young black men in hoodies. With guns in their hands, the men relieved the commuters of thousands of dollars worth of electronics.

Unfortunately, all but one of these robbers were captured by the OPD. One of the robbers was named Dajon Ford, a former football star from McClymonds High School who had been unable to attend a university in New Mexico where he received a sports scholarship. Faced with a lack of opportunities, Dajon teamed up with his friend Delante Johnson and an unknown accomplice to steal from the rich. The unknown person was able to escape with the loot after the robbery, but Dajon and Delante were arrested at 29th and San Pablo in Oakland. The pair was charged with nearly a dozen counts of armed robbery and will likely be in prison for many years to come.

Dajon Ford



Given that the commuters they robbed were all wealthy people, Mayor Jean Quan and the OPD began framing the crime as a grave offense to civic order. In reality, they were afraid such acts

would scare away new residents or, as we will refer to them, **gentrifiers**. Because young Dajon dared to steal from the rich, he was tried as an adult despite the fact that he was 17 years old and did not physically injure anyone. However, this overly cruel punishment was clearly not enough for the wealthy gentrifiers that lost their replaceable electronics.

Unknown to the robbers, one of the marks was a well-paid Google employee named Paul Liu. While the trio of robbers could not have picked a better target, after the robbery Liu took it upon himself to begin crowd-sourcing

funds over the internet for private security patrols in the Rockridge neighborhood. Within a month, the campaign had raised over 20,000 dollars. The donations only came from around 6% of the total population of Rockridge, reflecting the amount of power a small group of wealthy people can have. Now, thanks to them, there are black men dressed like cops driving the private patrol cars of Premier Protective Services up and down College Avenue, on the look out for other black men who clearly have no business in such a posh and gentrified area.

The bourgeois mania for private security patrols quickly had an effect in Rockridge, decreasing the amount of reported crime by 40%. But all this number indicates is that the crime wave shifted slightly west to the Temescal neighborhood, another main node of gentrification in North Oakland. In April, 2014, a similar crowd-funding campaign for private patrols was started for Temescal and on June 1st the campaign met its goal of 15,750 dollars. This money will pay Intervention Group Inc. security officers to profile poor people and harass anyone who does not conform to the new aesthetic standards of the gentrifiers.

Despite all this new security, aimed at driving the crime back into East and West Oakland (where poor people are meant to prey on each other), the number of robberies remains steady in Temescal. Over the past months there have been several smash and grabs targeting new gentrifying restaurants. This past June there have been nearly two dozen muggings in the neighborhood, most of them targeting people who looked like gentrifiers or those comfortable with flaunting their wealth and expecting no consequences. One of these muggings attracted international attention.

On June 16th, two men mugged a white woman on Shattuck Avenue and 48th in Temescal, badly beating her and making off with money and electronics. The two men escaped in a car, the woman was hospitalized, and the media began decrying the brutality exhibited by the assailants. We find the level of violence exhibited on this woman to be unacceptable, but far worse levels of lethal violence are inflicted on people of color in East and West Oakland every other week without the media becoming equally scandalized. It was not until later that night that this local news story went international.

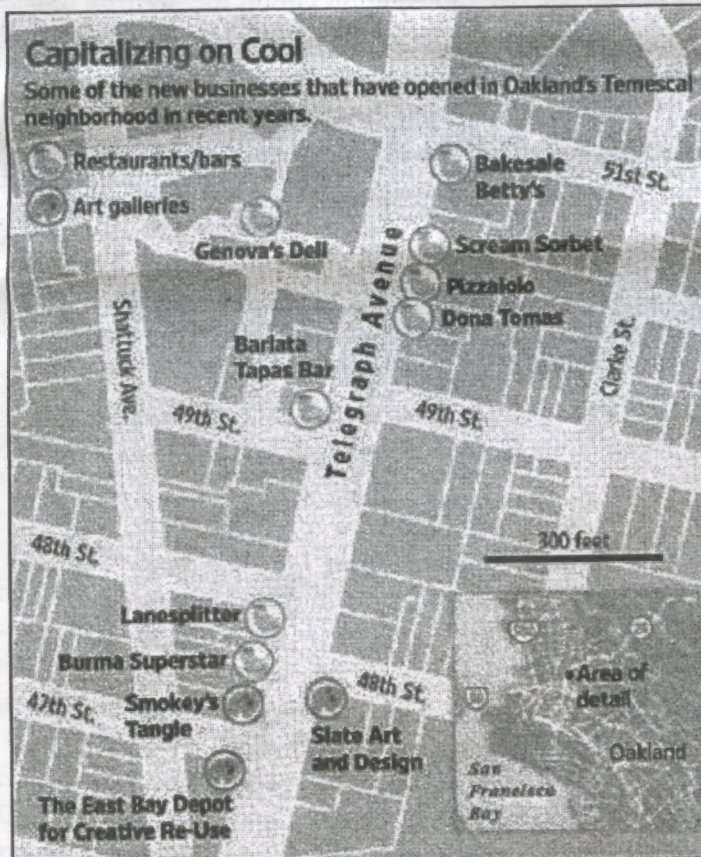
Heather Holmes, a journalist for KTVU, was covering the story of the brutal mugging in front of OPD headquarters. While her news segment was airing live, de-

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scribing the dozens of car break-ins and robberies that have taken place in the Temescal this June, unknown thieves stole her purse out of the KTVU news van and got away in a car. They used her credit card to fill up their gas tank near the ACORN projects and disappeared into the night. Once she discovered that her belongings had been stolen, the journalist tweeted "Credit cards now canceled. Locks changed. Lesson here...be aware of your surroundings at all times." We could not find her advice more apt.

If wealthy gentrifiers move into a working class city that has long suffered extreme federal repression, police terrorism, widespread poverty, and institutional racism, it would be wise for them to be aware of their surroundings and not imagine they can transplant their version of a white, bourgeois utopia onto a population that has nothing but resentment towards them. Inequality is inherent to capitalism, and until it is destroyed, we can only expect the crime wave to continue. While robberies and theft provide temporary relief to economic problems, these acts alone will never bring about an end to capitalism. They are merely its symptoms.



ALL THE STORES WILL OPEN UP IF YOU SAY THE MAGIC WORDS. THE MAGIC WORDS ARE: UP AGAINST THE WALL MOTHERFUCKER THIS IS A STICK UP!

-AMIRI BARAKA, 1967

REBELLION IN T

APRIL 28TH: Two pre-May Day actions took place in San Francisco and Oakland. The communique from San Francisco reads: "Last night we attacked the Sales office for the in-construction Vida Condos on Mission St. We added a new heavy-duty lock to their security gate and hit their facade with paint. These developments, and all the others, deserve much more. We welcome further creative contributions. It is easy to attack! Down with gentrification! Life is revolt!" From Oakland, "Early on Monday morning, locks were glued at Dogtown Development and at a new fancy coffee shop in the lower bottoms. The walls of Dogtown Development were painted to read: "YOUR PROGRESS REEKS OF DEATH." The coffee shop was painted to read "EAT SHIT YUPPIES."

MAY 1ST: In San Francisco and Oakland, marches take place for immigrant and workers rights. In San Francisco, people take and hold the intersection of 16th and Mission and play music and serve free food. Police make several arrests.

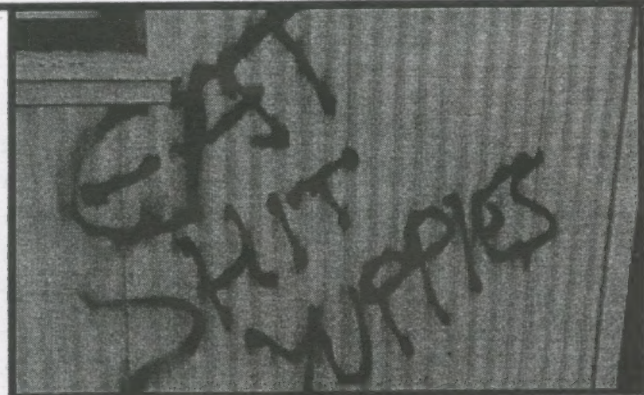
EARLY MAY: Nubia Bowe, a 19 year old African-American woman is brutally beaten and arrested by BART police responding to complaints of solicitors dancing for money. Police approach Bowe and her friends believing they are responsible despite the protests of other riders. This incident is followed by protests at the BART Board.

MID-MAY: Actions continue at the Albany Bulb squatter encampment, after the City of Albany offered to pay around 30 people \$3,000 each to pack up and leave. Amber Whitson and three others refuse the offer, deciding to stay. Holding the space down with here are various supporters who camp, monitor police activity, and bring supplies to the Bulb. Eventually, Albany and Berkeley police accompanied by local Sheriffs come into the space, make arrests, and issue stay away orders – effectively clearing the Bulb.

MID-MAY: Two students map the surveillance cameras in Downtown Oakland and find that most of them are saturated in the 'Koreatown Northgate' gentrified area known as KoNo.

MAY 5TH: UC Berkeley police savagely beat an African American grad student after stopping his group of friends for jaywalking. The beating is followed by protests.

THE BAY - A RECENT CHRONOLOGY



MAY 15TH: According to Indybay: *"As an early kickoff to the May 15th 'Day Against the World Cup,' a McDonalds location in Oakland was vandalized overnight. McDonalds is not only a sponsor of the FIFA World Cup, which has fueled rampant poverty throughout Brazil leading up to the June 2014 event, they are also a sponsor of the Olympics, which will come to Rio in 2016. Thousands of people have been forcibly displaced, with a rising death toll, to make way for the spectacle of the World Cup."*

MAY 22ND: People rally and protest outside of the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco against the state murder of a Zapatista teacher in Mexico. According to a report: *"We gather today at the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco to demonstrate our dignified pain and rage while denouncing the murder of Zapatista schoolteacher Galeano, in the autonomous community of La Realidad, Chiapas. We distributed flyers with information about what happened in La Realidad, and we expressed our rage with our rebellious cries and the noise of our pots and pans."*

MAY 29TH: In solidarity with riots and protests against the police murder of three people in two months in Salinas, people drop a banner in the Temescal district of Oakland reading, **"Salinas in Our Hearts - Fuck the Police."**

JUNE 1ST: In response to union inaction and the inability of workers to legally strike against their contract, MUNI bus drivers in San Francisco stage a 'sick-out' strike for several days, shutting down large amounts of bus service throughout the city.

JUNE 2ND: In San Francisco, the City rules that the SFPD was justified in shooting Alex Nieto, a security guard and student at SF City College. Nieto was killed while eating a burrito on Bernal Hill, overlooking the city. As a se-

curity guard, he carried a taser and police claim that they thought that he had a gun.

JUNE 3RD: In Half Moon Bay, about an hour south of San Francisco, sheriffs shoot and kill an 18-year old special needs woman who was on medication. Rallies and protests soon follow.

EARLY JUNE: In San Francisco, the offices for Maximus Development group is taken over and disrupted by people opposed to Maximus' project at 16th and Mission that would bring in condos and gentrify the neighborhood. Maximus is also behind the 'Clean up the Plaza' campaign, which seeks to use police to drive out poor and homeless people.

JUNE 4TH: In Oakland, the family of Alan Blueford receives a settlement from the City, although they state afterwards that *"no amount of money can bring back [our son]."* The Blueford's continue to run the Alan Blueford Center for Justice in Oakland at 2434 Telegraph Avenue.

JUNE 7TH: Activists from Eviction Free San Francisco arrive at the home of David McCloskey, CEO of Urban Green Investments. They then proceed to his office in the Marina, and continue the protest there in the midst of the Union Street Festival.

JUNE 8TH: The Counterforce demonstrates outside of the Marina district home of Thomas Fallows, a Google employee. They write, *"Thomas Fallows is a man who has used the Ellis Act to evict the occupants of four buildings filled with dozens of people and their lives. He caught our attention by not only being a Google employee but also for being a stark example of the entitled and greedy tech-entrepreneurs inhabiting San Francisco."*

EARLY JUNE: According to Indybay, *"Multiple yuppie condo/loft developments were vandalized this week around the Oakland/Emeryville border."*

JUNE 11TH: Marching through West Oakland to City Hall, people protested against the West Oakland Specific Plan (WOSP) that would further gentrify the area. Once at City Hall, people attempted to disrupt the committee meeting and keep it from happening.

THROWING US ALL UNDER THE BUS

Last summer, BART and AC Transit workers stood a chance at shutting down the Bay Area in a general strike. BART workers walked out after contract negotiations broke down over conditions and wages. Refusing to work, they cost the Bay Area bosses tens of millions of dollars a day.

AC Transit workers, who had seen wage freezes and attacks on their benefits, also had their contract come up at the same time. Despite voting over 97% to go out on strike, union leaders refused to take the workers out, fearing "transit armageddon." In the end, AC Transit did not go on strike with the BART workers and the thought of a general strike was crushed.

The fears of the bureaucrats, media, and politicians

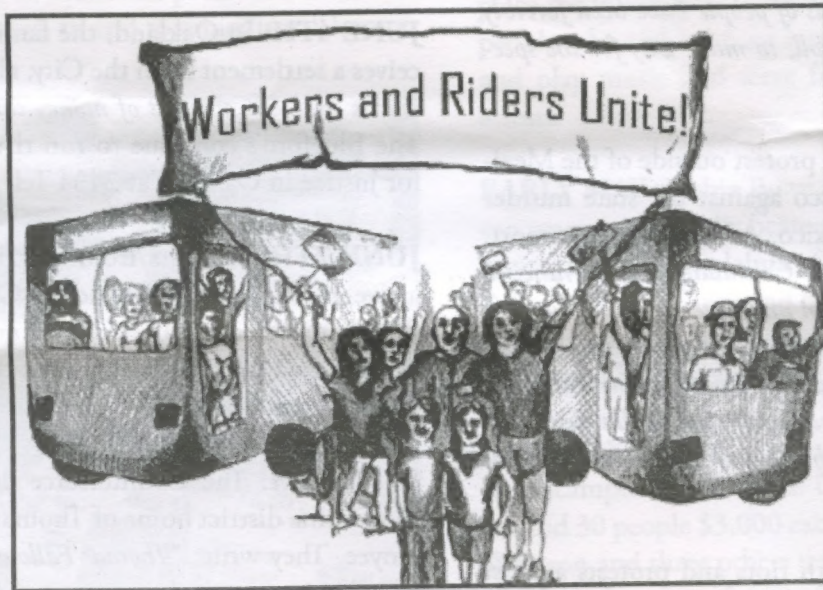
— should have come true. BART and AC Transit workers should have gone out on strike at the same time. Not in fear of breaking a strike freeze, but of their own volition. Transit workers, if still working, should have let people ride for free. They should have occupied buildings to hold community meetings where sustaining a free transit system would be discussed. This is how struggles expand and grow into full blown revolt — they grow bigger and start to involve other sectors of the population. Leaders will only sell us out, whether they be in Sacramento or the union office.

Recently, AC Transit has gotten rid of paper transfers in an attempt to not only move more people onto the Clipper system but also cut down on fare evasion. The transfers were already a broken system. For children traveling from East Oakland to school or Downtown Oakland, they often have to transfer buses several times within the two hour transfer time limit. While some drivers give out free transfers and risk getting in trouble, most riders end up paying for several.

Under the new system transfers are gone and riders instead have to pay a full fare every time they get on the bus or buy a \$5 day pass (or \$2.50 for youth, senior, or disabled). As it turns out, Clipper card riders get a discount every time that they ride (down from \$2.10 to only \$2) as well as a \$.25 discount after riding BART. Just as the proposed surveillance technology of the Domain Awareness Center (DAC), the Clipper system will track people's movements throughout their day. The new system means less service for more money, hitting the poorest riders right in the pocket and pitting riders against transit workers.

While AC Transit claims that more Clipper riders will make riding the bus faster, recent 'high-tech' fare boxes have made boarding take even more time as they often jam

and refuse to take bills. This makes buses often late and riders and drivers off schedule. For children, the disabled, and seniors, they also must go down to the AC Transit downtown office during business hours — a hard feat for parents out in Richmond or Deep East Oakland. Thus, a system is created where wealthier, (often) white riders use Clipper cards and poor, working class riders of color often use cash.



At the same time, services in the poorest parts of Oakland and beyond are cut as AC Transit rolls out newer buses for commuters living in rich areas of Berkeley and elsewhere in San Francisco. At the same time, gentrified areas of the East Bay are awash in free transit, such as the Broadway Free Shuttle, the Emeryville Go-Around, and others scheduled to come online soon. For the wealthy, transit is free — for the poor, the cost only goes up.

Fare increases in the transit system are nothing new, but transit workers and riders have to come together across the divide and begin to struggle with each other against a system that has thrown us all under the bus.

Proletarian Shopping On Stolen Native Land

They say nothing is free but you know
it always used to be and no matter
what sharp words they utter
a lie is still a lie

Should the colonizer capture you
should the pink man trap you
on the concrete
it is wise to scream that
everything is stolen here
and that you are simply delivering them
a filthy copy of a long unpaid bill

Steal everything from them, my love
there is nothing else to do
when the land cries out for liberation
and the creeks await their release

Pillage recklessly until
the stores are empty
and the wind carries the paper notes
away into the salty waters
of drifting seaweed

If you were made into a worker
it is up to you to remember you are free
and that only the ghosts are truly alive
in this crumbling empire
of thieves



Fig. 100. *Quercus agrifolia* A.C.
Lanceol. leaf, $\times 50$.

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JUNE 12TH: According to the East Bay Express: “*At around 1 a.m. this morning, two people dressed in black with masks covering their faces threw concrete into the windows of Kilovolt Coffee, a new West Oakland business that opened its doors in April.*” This attack comes the day after the WOSP plan was approved to be taken before the Oakland City Council.

JUNE 14TH: At 16th and Mission in San Francisco, a variety of groups hold a block party against Maximus condo development plan. Later in the day, a Google van has its tires slashed.

MID-JUNE: In Fremont, the city puts in a \$300,000 surveillance system that can read license plates and track people's movements.

MID-JUNE: In San Francisco, local media believes an arson wave could be motivated against new development in the Soma District.

JUNE 20TH: Ohlone activist Luta is badly beaten by pigs. According to Indybay.org: "*Luta was walking home in San Leandro when he was approached by police officers asking where he was headed... He answered home and they pushed for an address, Luta declared he didn't need to give that information and was ambushed from behind by 7 police officers. He was badly beaten, his eye socket was broken.*" Charges were later dropped.

JUNE 24TH-25TH: "Occupy Google" activists are arrested in front of Google HQ in Mountain View. This is the first time Google has utilized the State to stop dissent.

JUNE 25TH: Anthony Bejarano is arrested by SFPD in connection with a string of arsons in the SOMA district. The arson wave at this point encompasses nearly two dozen fires, one of which destroyed a luxury car. On the same day, the Google "I/O" conference is disrupted by a woman being evicted by a Google developer.

JUNE 28TH: In San Francisco, several people are arrested after a "anti-prison, pro-sex" street party marches through the Mission District.

JUNE 29TH: During Pride weekend in San Francisco, anarchists and radical queer took over the Google/FIFA float with banners against evictions in the bay area and Brazil.

STOP THE WOSP

SABOTAGE THE

GENTRIFICATION MACHINE

The Oakland City Council is in the midst of an orgy with their developer friends, and they hope to put Oakland on the chopping block. Not content with the failure of their previous plans, the Council will now contemplate a new travesty. The West Oakland Specific Plan (WOSP) will be voted on by the Oakland City Council on **July 29th**. If it is approved, it will completely destroy West Oakland and displace the remaining population that has called it home for multiple generations.

The WOSP calls for the creation of four commercial and residential development zones, the biggest of which will be near the West Oakland BART station. The WOSP will connect the upscale development in Emeryville with the new condos and apartments of Jack London Square in one contiguous waterfront strip. In this new area, the rents and property taxes would rise, luxury housing would be created, and the composition of the neighborhood would change. A shopping mall monoculture would emerge, threatening to completely overwrite the Oakland that thousands have known their whole lives.

Thus far, West Oakland council woman Lynette McElhaney has not expressed any overt opposition to the WOSP. It is clear that she is not afraid of selling out her constituency to developers and gentrifiers, just as East Oakland council man Larry Reid sold out his constituency to the owners of the A's and their Coliseum development plan. Like the rest of her peers, McElhaney is painting a rosy picture of equitable development that will lift all boats in a sea of dollars and safety. We cannot rely on her or the rest of the money obsessed council to stop this development. Everyone horrified by this plan should act now.

Developers and city planners predict that in the next several decades, hundreds of thousands of people will be brought into San Francisco as thousands of others are driven out. As new residents continue to arrive in the bay, public transit becomes more and more important to capital's project. While politicians push to ban transit strikes, the current resi-

dents of West Oakland face cuts to current AC Transit service and rising fares. In short, the rich are catered to, the poor are left with the scraps.

With the arrival of wealthier residents, WOSP hopes to create a new free transit loop dubbed "The O" specifically for them. According to the WOSP documents, this loop would connect "West Oakland to the most central BART stations in the system...as well as to the Broadway corridor in downtown Oakland, Jack London Square...and Emeryville." Along with the Emery-Go-Round and the Broadway Free Shuttle from Jack London to the KoNo corridor, this new loop would create a business-funded transportation network designed to deliver wealthy residents to the new businesses popping up exclusively for them.

By targeting and marking the physical mechanisms of gentrification, we can reveal to the public who the hostile parties are. Developers' offices, luxury homes, condo developments, and Google buses all are physical things that can be removed. We can physically get rid of these things whenever enough of us chose to do so. That time is now. Act relentlessly, because the WOSP cannot come to pass unless we let it happen. They have already invaded the northern

edge of Oakland, now they are beginning their assault on the East and the West. The coming month is important, so please give it your all.

For more information, read:

Advance the Struggle: WOSP-The City of Oakland's Plan For Gentrification

Causa Justa: Development Without Displacement: Resisting Gentrification in the Bay Area

